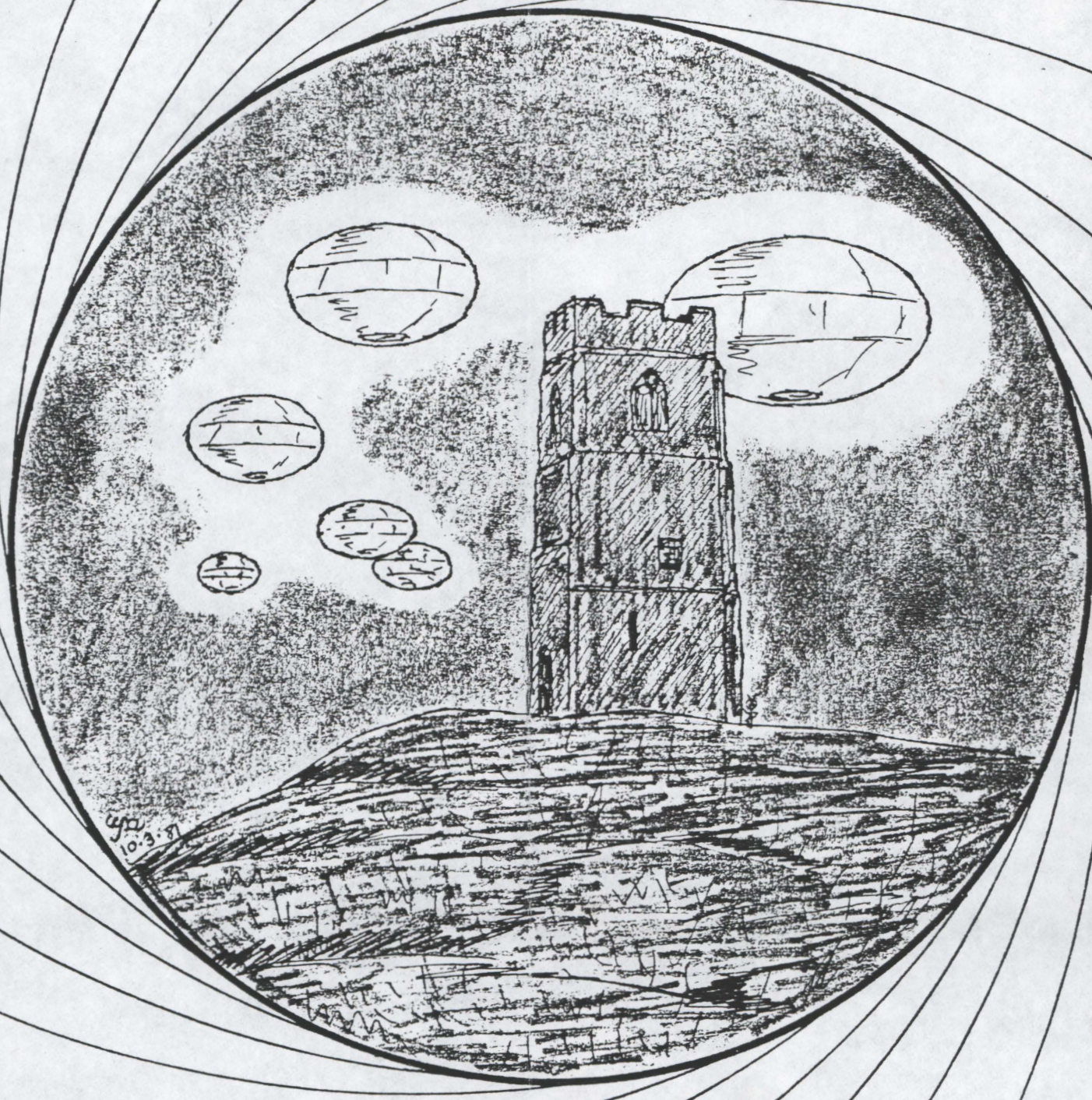


NORTHERN UFOLOGY



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APRIL 1981

WINDOW AREAS - What are they ??

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Window Areas...??

ISSUE 83

EDITORIAL: Hello Universe... Or Goodbye?

On March 16 BBC's HORIZON presented "Hello Universe", their fascinating look at SETI (search for extra-terrestrial intelligence). It probed the question 'is there anyone out there?' and came up with an answer which sounded suspiciously like 'No...it doesn't seem so.'

The programme only touched on UFOs, with beginning and end bits showing members of southern groups atop Cradle Hill, Warminster, valiantly skywatching on a moon-bathed night. The tone was much like "we look for aliens as a basic human need", which seems reasonable enough, but I doubt TV Critic Herbert Kretzner, in the DAILY MAIL who said, "this is what the UFO watchers signal, hopefully, every night. They know there is intelligent life in outer space." Oh really? I didn't realise that I 'knew' that. Strike one more plus for the skywatching ETH fans.

In fact HORIZON approached me last October to appear on the programme. I was to give the "informed ufologists" opinion (as they put it). Of course, this opinion was predetermined! UFOs were alien vehicles and I was supposed to present a précis (in about thirty seconds I expect) of what evidence there was! Naturally, I declined the offer, and told them thirty seconds was rather a long time to have to spin out the answer. "There isn't any" would take about two or three! A rather bemused BBC man said, "That's what Allen Hynek said...we couldn't get him to appear either." As it happens the skywatch piece was not harmful and in fact rather poignantly summarised the emotional mood of skywatchers (and, it was suggested, humanity). Their longing glances skywards spoke volumes...far more than all the silly UFO programmes the BBC has concocted in the past. We need there to be aliens - badly.

As the evidence unfolded it became clear these aliens were shy critters. Some astrophysicists were shown playing their parlour game with Drake's equation, making up the numbers as they went along with an arbitrary nature which shows just how little we really know. Peter and I explain the process in UFOs: A BRITISH VIEWPOINT. The truth is, whilst astronomers love to speculate (don't we all?), we don't have a clue. The number of planets with intelligent life lies somewhere between infinity and zero.

Apart from what is called the "WOW!" message (cause that's what the astronomer wrote on the computer tape!), which is an unrepeatable one-off, not a whisper has been heard from the radio telescope searches of likely stars. Peter's "elephant flap" and Aime Michel's cat-flap effect were recognised, "if there were only one or two civilisations, instead of the Billions the astrophysicists conjecture, then the galaxy would have been colonised and they would be here now". As they are not (they said that not me!) then it seems that we must be alone.

Whilst not being an ETH supporter, but not dismissing it either (in true 'on the fence' fashion) this argument seems ridiculously naive. Apart from the obvious counter "maybe they are here", which (it seems thanks to Allen Hynek and me) was not even postulated, I can think of two points off the top of my head which seem to provide a few little 'problems' for this wild assumption.

1) Why assume that if they were here we would recognise them? "Life as we know it" is a common phrase, but as we by definition don't know "life as we don't know it" if it were here we would probably be ignorant. Does the ant know we exist? Does the tree? Our senses detect a very narrow range of the EM spectrum. Our thinking is so constrained to earthly expectations. The universe is a darned big place. If we look through a slit a few micromillimetres thick for something itself no wider, but which could be anywhere on a scale millions of times greater, should we expect to find it? And should we presume it doesn't exist because we don't first try? Something tells me man is going to have to stop being such an egotist.

2) Why assume that an advanced civilisation would use radio telescopes to make contact? We've had them forty years and know that as interstellar telephones they are useless (imagine calling mother and hearing her answer in ten thousand years). To presume they are the ultimate in communication is silly. In twenty years we might have the Googleplex Transceiver (a hypothesised system far superior). Any advanced civilisation would probably use that, or something else. The use of radio telescopes would be an implausible coincidence. Before the development of radio we had other means of long distance communication (eg shouting), but who would ever dream of shouting your message to cousin Joe in Australia! I'm not at all surprised we haven't heard from them. It seems like a big waste of money to me.

The programme was interesting, and fun, but a bit on the shallow side. Yet when

laugh heartily or sit back and gape. Few of us think really deeply (Aime Michel is a notable exception). We think they should be just like us...but why? If God had an ounce of sense he would have learnt by His mistakes.

The next NORTHERN UFOLOGY will be the JULY issue. The theme will be "VEHICLE INTERFERENCE...possible causations". You can start thinking and speculating for that now. Articles must be in by June 30.

NEWS :: Bill Skellon of DIGAP asks to point out (after the July 1980 editorial) that he has long postulated Ufology cannot be recognised as a science. As he says, "We don't seem to have got beyond square one and if the 'flying saucers' decide to leave the earth and we human beings all that we could pass down to our children's children would be the usual stories of myth and legend of marvellous flying angels, little gnomes and wee men that appeared suddenly" Sound familiar??

:: SKYSCAN, the Worcester group (59 Rydal Close, Warndon, Worcester) have announced a change in status. It seems to continue the healthy trend reported last month which FUFOR and NUFOIS have followed and which MUFORA is presently considering. SKYSCAN have become a restrictive membership society with no public interface. Their magazine is suspended and will be replaced by selected detailed case studies, published for the benefit of other Ufologists. A step into the future.

:: UFO INTERNATIONAL announce publication of a catalogue of sightings 1977-79. This is available (at £3) with a set of statistical tables at an extra £1. Contact: Alan Parsons 160 Courtn ey Rd, Kingswood, Bristol, Avon.

:: UFO PHENOMENA, that excellent Italian production (in English), has asked me to promote it to British readers, of which it would like to attract more. The level of content is incredibly high, with first-degree research papers from leading ufologists world-wide. Past volumes are available at £15 and a supporting subscription costs £50 (US). It's worth a try....if you can afford it!

:: Another new magazine is shortly to be launched onto the scene. Entitled COMMON GROUND ('studies on the fringe of human experience') it is a cooperative effort from many of Britain's leading paranormal researchers. The aim is to study paranormal phenomena as separate entities and explore their links from the viewpoint of human experience. The first issue is scheduled for May publication and it promises to have much of ufological interest. More details will be announced when plans are fully formulated. If you want to know more then send an SEE to Kevin McClure at 8 Scotland Rd, Little Bowden, Market Harborough, Leics. But please allow time for a reply.

ELSEWHERE THIS MONTH..... ASWR 12 is out (5 Egton Dr, Seaton Carew, Hartlepool, TS25 2AT) (£2 sub) reviewing books and journals in earth mysteries, magic, UFOs etc.... GUERNSEY UFO RESEARCH Mar 81 (15p from Highcliffe, Avenue Beauvais, Ville Au Roi, St Peter Port, Gurnsey) latest news from the Channel Isles.... NORTHERN EARTH MYSTERIES Feb 81 (30p from 61 Clumber St, Hull HU5 3RH) has some fascinating stuff this time...a 'boggart'/ghostie/UFO entity observation from Nottinghamshire which should be studied by all ufologists, the Eden legend, a ditch in Manchester, an expedition to Shap Fell and more...Finally, THE LEY HUNTER (issue 90) (95p from PO Box 13 Welshpool, Powys) has many theses on leys in Britain, the Bord's on alien animals and an interesting commentary on MIBs, coincidences and that excellent piece of UFO theorising, the novel MIRACLE VISITORS.

SCHOLASTIC ENCOUNTERS Jenny Randles

"Alastair's doing a UFO project at school...you'll help him, won't you?" So came the request a few weeks ago. After fatefully saying 'yes' and supplying some written material I suddenly found myself scheduled to talk to Alastair's class! So, as a true friend, I roped in Peter Warrington too and we made due arrangements to visit Stockport School in Offerton (right on David Rees's doorstep, we noted, as soon as we got there!)

March 23 was a miserable, wet day with dark clouds and low-flying jumbos roaming above the school building. "A couple of other classes got interested and want to come...that will be OK?" teacher asked of us. Mumbling agreements, amidst trembling trepidations, we went to set up our slides and prepare for the onslaught, when in trooped the classes...and the classes...and the classes! It seemed like half the school had arrived, chattering and buzzing with something (we hoped anticipation). They ranged from timid eleven year olds to brawny (alleged) sixteen-year

olds. Gulping in fresh air, not hearing the incredulous apologies of a teacher as overwhelmed as we were, we set back and prepared our attack.

Between 2.45 and 3.45 we went straight for the heart. We demolished Von Daniken, showed how 90% of UFO reports are mistakes and laser-beamed the ETH (One perceptive lad quipped afterwards, 'I thought you believed in UFOs but you've just said they don't exist') Well, not quite! Our epilog was a potted version of the objective-subjective paradox, arguing that there were two different "UFO phenomena" and not yielding to the intense pressure of "but what do you think they are?" We thrust tests their way, providing four "puzzles" (misidentifications reported as UFOs). Their suggestions were always sensible, often incisive and somebody got every one of them right...including one which I haven't found an investigator yet who did! (You'll get your chance as I include the question in a quiz in my new book UFO STUDY). Peter and I concluded that this lot were potentially better investigators than half British ufology, which has to tell us something!

Questions came, and thirty or so stayed on for an hour of demanding SS grilling. There was no sign of a let-off when a kind-hearted teacher decided at 5pm to abduct them aboard O.S.B.s (Orange school buses)! But questions were again very sensible. We had an interesting debate with a well informed boy of about 12 over the Betty & Barney Hill saga leading on to shared hallucinations. We were asked about the relation between factual and fictionalised UFOs, leading to Jung and the mandala concept. A petite lad asked why aliens were always humanoid and actually seemed to understand the paradoxes this created! We were left amazed by the objectivity of many of these youngsters. Indeed we have seldom experienced a more rational and thought-provoking question session with adult groups (let alone ufologists!)

Certainly our scholastic encounter made us think about much maligned child witnesses. If this was anything like a representative sample then very few are gullible, open to wild imaginings and less reliable than adult UFO spotters. Indeed, if as trends indicate UFOs are seen more often by children it might not be just because of so-called vivid imagination. It could be that these ufonauts, being a perceptive lot, know just who best to talk to!

Some facts elicited... (from about 200 who were timetabled, so not there by choice)
 ... About 90% had seen CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND
 ... About 75% were interested (and 15% enough to give up their spare time)
 ... About 5% admitted publically to having had a puzzling sighting (others may come confidentially as we follow up our contact with the school).
 ... About 10% thought there was nothing strange in UFO reports
 ... 100% agreed they had once met a weird looking being (.... their teacher!)

 NOTHING IS REAL Nigel Watson

There is nothing harder than trying to write about a person who has recently died. This is only compounded when that person is struck down in a violent and senseless manner. Such a task falls upon me when I try to focus my thoughts on the brutal slaughter of John Lennon. His songs, and those he created and performed with the Beatles, have had tremendous impact on our society. How much they initiated or reflected social change is an intangible question, but no doubt most of us can reminisce about how they invaded our own mental environment.

The content of Beatle songs has been under the critical microscope of people more learned than myself, but you find in them an amazing diversity of style, ideas and images. The sheer quantity and quality of output in 8 hectic years is staggering. As an "ex" Beatle, with second wife Yoko Ono, Lennon went into a frenzy of activity with happenings, experimental films and some equally strange vinyl products, with Ono displaying her marked inclination to scream and screech like a drunken banshee. During this time Lennon dissipated his utopian ideology in such songs as 'Imagine' and 'Give Peace a Chance'. The essence of Lennon was that his strong feelings were injected, intensity intact, into his songs.

Lennon and his ilk represent the spirit of the sixties. Times were changing (a songster named Dylan noted that). The Russian and American space race turned our attention to the stars, this being the trigger for that enigmatic and brilliant film "2001: A Space Odyssey" and trash like "Chariots of the Gods". There was optimism in the air. Science, and drugs!, would transcend old barriers and cement new patterns of human relationships. The "Sergeant Pepper" album represents the peak of sixties optimism with its grandeur and psychedelic imagery.

UFOs played their part in this dream. In 1967 Britain was subjected to a huge wave of sightings, drowning the capabilities of UFO investigators. Warminster and

its "thing" became a focal point for UFO percipients, investigators and new age dreamers. The Beatles were intrigued by the subject of UFOs and the paranormal. In "A Twist of Lennón", by Cynthia (his first wife) she tells (p.137) how in 1966 they met a couple who said a UFO had landed near their home in Spain and they had regular communication with it. The Beatles were invited to listen and as one percipient tuned in his special receiver he exclaimed... "There can you hear that? We've almost got through.... They are trying to reach us". It was painfully obvious no spacemen were trying to communicate and one of the Beatles had to sadly admit "I'm awfully sorry, folks, but I think our friends are finding it impossible to reach us" If we are to believe, as Stephen Spielberg has it, that UFO occupants are musical geniuses then the opportunity to jam with the Beatles must have had them cursing all the way back to Alpha Centauri.

In the booklet accompanying his "Walls and Bridges" LP Lennon states 'On the 23 August 1974 at 9'o'clock I saw a UFO' but further details have eluded me (It was reported in NEW MUSICAL EXPRESS at the time and was a cigar-shaped object, if I recall....JR)

Disillusionment manifested on arrival of the seventies. The bubble burst under the pressure of decimalisation, British entry into the EEC, the arrival of the Osmonds and the disappearance of the mini skirt! But in conclusion I'd simply like to state: John Lennon; Rock in Peace!

WINDOW AREAS:- What are they??

1) TIMEWARPS

by Geoff Grundill

Geoff is a regular reader and investigator in Cumbria for NLUFOIG

Are Window areas timewarps? I tend to think that these zones could be warped areas of time & space, or even 'black holes' which exist in another dimension and suck in or release out anti-matter particles. UFOs could then use these as sign-posts to enter our reality, in the same way that ghosts and psychic phenomena do.

Or perhaps it could be that nature can cause warped magnetic fields by ordinary events in this world. Perhaps the tilting of the earth's axis at certain times in its history. Yet we know that black holes, if they exist in space, suck in matter allowing nothing to escape the enormous gravitational pull. But if a black-hole exists in another dimension this may be reversed so that anti-matter leaks from it. Can this then come near to our planet?

The Window areas could be smaller versions of the Bermuda Triangle - possibly. But then are UFOs responsible for the vanishings in the triangle? (No - Charles Berlitz is!....JR)

UFOs thus coming from these postulated window areas might be projections of anti-matter, or a mirror image of ourselves in the future. Some UFOs appear to be none-solid. Perhaps they have just entered a window area, materialising from anti-matter and becoming solid matter. The reason - to make one think that it is real?

If a solid object were to enter a window area it would have to change its whole atomic structure until it reached the exit point, where it could then change back to normal. This might be the explanation for the apparant translucency of some UFO experiences.

(Readers who find this theory interesting would be advised to read the book OTHER WORLDS, by Dr Paul Davies. This expounds, in simple terms, the amazing consequences of modern theories of quantum and sub-atomic physics. Much of it reads like a theoretical verification of this conception! I am also aware of experiments being conducted in quantum physics in Australia, which throw some very intriguing light on physical UFO phenomena. A book on the question is in the planning stages....Editor)

2) THE PROBLEMS OF PUBLICITY, or ... Double-glazing for Window areas

by Kevin McClure

Kevin is a UFOIN member, BUFORA RIC and member of the SPR UFO sub-committee. With his wife Sue he produced the booklet STARS & RUMOURS OF STARS in 1980, detailing his work on the paranormal aspects of the Welsh religious revival. He lives in Leicestershire.

No doubt many of you will remember, only too well, Warminster at its worst. Indeed, unless Shuttlewood's books do the decent thing (along, perhaps, with some of Peter Paget's) and spontaneously combust (simultaneously) we will scarcely have the chance to forget.

Warminster was, in the end, an embarrassment to all sensible researchers and investigators. It was also a window area or UFOcal. Very probably, there was some sound, tangible basis for the later absurdities committed by journalists and UFOlogists alike. But how can we possibly establish, if we are willing to accept that belief plays a part in the perception of phenomena, when the spontaneous incidents ceased and the anticipated incidents began? If we suspect a window area exists, we should perhaps keep very quiet in order to minimise the occurrence of belief/anticipation-inspired incidents.

Perhaps we can differentiate between window-area and UFOcal. The latter is, perhaps, in some way a product of the former, a product resulting from media and investigator interest in an area where there is a tendency for anomalous events to occur. The one area of which I can claim to have any real, long-term knowledge is the Cambrian coast of North Wales between Barmouth and the Llyn Peninsula. It has a long history of anomalous, aerial light phenomena, running at least from 1692 to 1910. Yet it is not a UFOcal. There is no modern expectation of lights - no one out there skywatching. In their time the Gwynedd phenomena were probably more remarkable than those reported more recently in Dyfed (and now under grave suspicion) - but in 1905 nobody anticipated UFOs. Instead they expected religious phenomena, and that is what they got; UFOs that hovered over chapels, and ones that followed an evangelist halfway round North Wales.

So really, it may well be that our case for the existence of window areas is beyond accurate statistical analysis, or scientific proof. We can already argue reasonably that the distribution of reports is not random - that their incidence is in some way inversely related to population density. But if we try to make a stronger case than that, to say either that anomalous events are more likely to occur in one particular area than another, or, more specifically, that UFO attention is focused, possibly in some curious way, on an area, we must be careful that we do not contribute, by our words or actions, to that likelihood or focussing.

3) THE LUTON & DUNSTABLE FOCUS

by Ken Phillips

Ken, a former NIC of BUFORA, is a UFOIN investigator in the Bedfordshire/Buckinghamshire area, running a hotline to attract all types of paranormal phenomena.

It has often puzzled investigators of UFO and other phenomena why certain areas of the country generate more reports than others. Is this state of affairs a direct result of population density, or of press features? Perhaps an unknown terrestrial factor is involved or some other obscure characteristic pertinent to the area in question.

The objective of this article is to focus attention on a relatively narrow strip of terrain on the periphery of the south midlands, namely Luton and Dunstable (perhaps extending as far west as Ivinghoe Beacon). Well attested reports go back to 1957, and there may be others further back. If one were to read the archives of all major UFO societies in the UK it would soon become apparent that reports pertaining to the south midlands tend to cluster in and around this region. What does it mean?

The Luton and Dunstable district is a largely populated and industrialised zone and, as such, must reflect the world in microcosm. This must inevitably include man's fears, aspirations and belief systems. Putting it another way, there are plenty of people around here to witness sky and ground phenomena, but is this the true reason for the report clusters that seem to so characterise this area?

Perhaps the best way of gaining an insight to this question is to compare the window area with that of a ufologically quiet location. This would be quite a scientific undertaking, bearing in mind that there has never been a proper (known) scientific study of UFOs in any case!

Another way would be to consider another window area, say, Chingford in N.E. London. Intense waves of sky phenomena have been perceived there from time to time, but, to the knowledge of certain London investigators, not one known report has emerged from the adjacent London borough of Enfield. (In the book *THIS HOUSE IS HAUNTED*, by Guy Lyon Playfair, which concerns a poltergeist in Enfield, a number of UFO sightings are mentioned in passing as having occurred in the local district

...JR). The only barrier separating Enfield from Chingford is the Lea Valley Water complex, consisting of large reservoirs almost 30 feet deep and affording an unrestricted view for certain Enfield residents over the hills of Chingford. Therefore, either the residents of Enfield saw something and kept quiet about it, or they saw nothing whilst their neighbours in Chingford were observing unknown sky phenomena.

Does press coverage stimulate further reports? Well, this factor must open the gateway to some extent, even if only to plant the germ of belief (or disbelief) in the minds of the populace. After all much of public attitude is entirely moulded by newspapers, TV and the media in general. But what of the initial reports founded on observations before the attention of the media was attracted? Could it be that a concept is being planted in the minds of these early percipients, which is eventually to be incubated by the media and finally accepted into the belief systems of the people? (See MESSENGERS OF DECEPTION by Jacques Vallee, And/Or, 1979) If Vallee's theory has an element of truth, then why a geographical focal point?

From the environmental point of view, the nature of the local geology could be a major physical influence on sky and ground phenomena (see, "Space-time transients & Unusual events" -Persinger/Lafrenier, Nelson*Hall) Certainly the local terrain in and around Dunstable and Luton is impressive. It is here that the midland plain sweeps down from the north to lap against the slopes of Dunstable Downs which, of course, form the NE ar, m of the Chiltern Hills. In fact, it forms a natural geographic boundary between the chalk hills of southern England and the fertile soil of the midland plain. It is not yet established whether earth faulting exists in this area.

Running along the foot of this terrestrial boundary is the prehistoric track, Icknield Way. This has much legend attached to it, describing such things as ghostly Roman armies, charioteers, dogs and other 'tales of unease'. Icknield Way also crosses a number of prehistoric alignments (see VIEW OVER ATLANTIS by John Michel, Abacus) It also intersects the Roman road, Watling Street, at the centre of Dunstable Town. All this indicates a scene of much human endeavour, some of which is of great antiquity.

What then does this short essay prove? In a word, nothing! But what emerges is circumstantial evidence which gives us an indication of where to look in the future. But what do we do about it? As it is, there exists a simple and cheap (and thus ufological!) way of monitoring the situation. All that members of UFO groups and cells need do is merely subscribe to local journals in focal areas and scan the pages. This is where 90% of our raw data comes from and any member of a cell can then spot the transients, eg ghosts, UFOs, poltergeists, Fortean etc.

At the very least one can record the event place and time for archival purposes. Even more, by conducting an on-site investigation, one can achieve the necessary emphasis, or subtle intuitive feelings about the case in question. By enquiring into the personal background of the witness, the whole field of transient phenomena becomes enriched beyond the bounds of corporate human knowledge.

(A point Ken makes here is worth restating and emphasising. As likely window areas in your groups locale may not be inhabited by investigators, the only way to keep a check on the situation is to monitor their local media regularly. Groups might like to consider this simple ongoing exercise....EDITOR)

4) WINDOW AREAS: A POSSIBLE EXPLANATION by Granville Oldroyd & Ian Cresswell

Granville and Ian live in the Morecambe area of North Lancashire and are both investigators for NLUFOIG. Ian has worked on the compilation of the historical data catalogue between NUFON and CONTACT since 1976 and Granville is involved in a cross-group study of early British UFO sightings, especially of airships.

To the question 'Do Window areas exist?' the answer would appear to be yes. Our definition of such areas would be as follows: "These appear to be localities from which, over a lengthy period of time, many more reports originate than from surrounding areas."

Not only do there appear to be definite window areas for UFO activity but also for varying types of psychical/paranormal incidents. There is some evidence that suggests both types of activity occur within the same window area, and sometimes even contemporaneously.

Within the Morecambe Bay area we have noticed that certain locations tend to generate UFO reports down through the years; these being Barrow/Ulverston, Warton, Morecambe/Heysham and more recently Lancaster. Elsewhere there appears to be little or no activity.

Within southern Lakeland there lies an area from Lake Windermere extending east to Kendal, approximately nine miles in length and breadth. From here reports also emanate. We have noted that during UFO flaps in northern England reports tend to come from these localities. And there was a series of psychical/paranormal activity during UFO waves in Morecambe/Heysham in 1967, 1973 and 1977. Further incidents occurred intermittently in other years.

We understand that there is a line of thought currently held by ufologists that the incidence of UFO reports tends to be inversely related to population density, but this does not appear to hold true for our own region. All the locations, except Warton, are population centres, whilst the particular locality of the Warton sightings is within half a mile of the village. In outlying areas there is only a certain low level (or background) of reports. Even in the Lake District, sightings they have tended to occur within the vicinity of a main centre of population. Reports have included the CE3 at Burneside and a possible CE1 at Crook, but this is one of the more habitable parts of Lakeland and should not be classed as a remote area. On the other hand many parts of the Lake District are sparsely populated, but they have only generated a low level of activity.

Because of the above observations it could be argued that this apparent concentration over populated areas may simply be due to the higher percentage (of potential witnesses). But if this were so we would have a state of continuously flowing UFO activity over all the main built-up areas in Britain. As this is clearly not the case (apparently) then window areas do not seem to be a product of the ratio of percipients to population size.

Why should certain given areas be the constant source of reports whilst neighbouring districts have only experienced small numbers of sightings? There does appear to be a deliberately selective process at work, rather than something which is purely random. It would also seem, by its nature, to be one which can only be activated by intelligence permeating human, and possibly animal, consciousness. If we presume that some type of energy is involved in these manifestations then it would be logical to assume that it was emanating from some kind of source. Now what kind of source is there which could generate high enough levels of energy to bring this particular sort of activity into manifestation? To understand how we arrive at our own conclusion about the energy source involved in window areas we must play a little guessing game!

What is the only, stable, constant factor in every UFO sighting? Answer - The witness. There has to be a witness to experience these manifestations otherwise to all intents and purposes there would be no phenomenon. (Note the failure of automatic recording systems, such as all-sky camera systems, they do not apparently observe UFO close encounters...and so this comment seems to be justified...JR) It seems that without a conscious intelligent outlet there would not be a UFO sighting!

We feel that the source of this energy lies within the consciousness of the witnesses, in what is known (both in psychology and metaphysics) as "psychical energy". This is postulated energy which would be the power source for consciousness. It is through this energy that UFO manifestations are brought about.

Window areas appear then to be caused by a number of percipients who generate very high levels of "psychic energy" from out of their own consciousness. This is then transformed into the various forms of UFO experience. At our present state of knowledge it is impossible to state categorically just what sort of intelligence is activating this energy from the consciousness. But there are a number of possible suggestions which could be made.

All we will say for the present moment is that there does appear to be some sort of intelligence which is manipulating and using our own psychical energy for purposes known only to itself.

But why window areas? We cannot really say, but it would seem that by concentrating on certain localities the intelligence behind these manifestations is attempting to draw our collective close attention to itself. (Focalised it is certainly more noticable than if spread widely and thinly...JR)

There are, in effect, seats of manifested psychical energy, or in lay terms "psychic cinemas", wherein the UFO percipient is the picturegoer and the manifested phenomenon is the cinema screen. (The film, no doubt, is CE3K!....JR)

5) U-FOCAL IF YOU WANT TO....

Jenny Randles

In those paraphrased immortal words of Maggie Thatcher I state my current position on the UFOCAL/Window Area saga. It is a position that might seem odd. It does somewhat baffle me, because there looks to be a reasonable degree of evidence that window areas do exist. Indeed Paul and I have just completed a book based around the topic (now called ALIEN CONTACT, and subtitled 'Window on Another World'). So what on earth am I talking about? I'm not sure. I'm simply sticking by my trusty intuition.

Firstly, let me say that in one sense I accept window areas do exist. That is, there are undoubtedly zones where UFO reports congregate. Warminster is the classic example. Dyfed (subject of no less than three recent books) is another, although very recent research by Hilary Evans (to be published to an undoubted storm in the UFO literature shortly) seems to have exploded that particular myth the way others did for the Bermuda Triangle. Clwyd, the principle focal point of our humble manuscript, is a third. What I doubt is that such areas are more than illusions, generated by several factors. If that is the case then, whilst real in one sense, I would hesitate to pin a self-perpetuating label on them.

Let us look at some mechanisms we have to consider. Remember that UFO reports come to public attention almost invariably due to one of two reasons. Either the media reports an observation or an investigator/official body does so. Let us now examine some characteristics of these methods.

a) The media is both national and local. By far the most UFO sightings are published by local media. Since, at times of low news flow, they will publish the most dreary of low definition observations a more intriguing one often warrants a fair sized story. Naturally this leads to a snowball effect as UFOs become a subject for local discussion (in pubs and supermarkets). Others, consciously or subconsciously, are on the lookout for "the thing". Often they see something "odd" (which may be a meteor, or a balloon, or whatever... something they have never bothered to notice before). All the psychological factors then come into play. "Gee - what's that? Must be that UFO." and the green ball of fire in view five seconds turns into a domed disc with a fluorescent glow that scared the local cows as it flashed overhead. (The cows just happened to be moving to keep warm, but nobody bothers to find that out) The feedback, which the media often actively encourages ("Tell us what you have seen") - rather disinterested in whether this be fact or fiction (so long as it's a good yarn), fans the flames. "What is the mysterious thing?" it proclaims, building up the story in the minds of the populace. A flap is created almost without effort. And those who do have genuine experiences see a temporary lowering of the credibility threshold and take the chance to report their experiences. If we take, as an arbitrary figure, that in one week, in a ten square mile radius, 10 TRUE UFO encounters occur. It might stand a 1 in 10 chance of being reported and then a 1 in 10 chance of finding its way into the media (1 in 100 overall). At the same time (as we know there are nine times as many IFOs as UFOs) 90 misidentifications occur, with maybe the same percentage (ie 9) actually reported. Adding these to the TRUE UFO report there is a 10 in 100 (1 in 10) chance of something being reported in the media but a 90% probability it will not be the TRUE UFO. Given a flap, however, perhaps as many as 90 misidentifications are now actually reported, increasing the odds of at least one being published considerably (indeed, because of the snowball effect on media interest probably several would be). TRUE UFO observations will not increase very much, it seems likely, and maybe now only 4 or 5 of the 10 or 20 which do occur will be reported. These might be stranger, and so more likely to find their way into the media, but they will still be competing with 90 IFOs for a place. The likely result is that the media will publish one or two cases in that week which are TRUE UFOs alongside several IFOs, chosen from the great influx. In other words distortion of the real situation occurs. In comparison with other areas, not possessing this media stimulus, the locale seems to have not only a lot of sightings but a higher proportion of TRUE UFOs (perhaps two out of the six in that weeks paper, which is a 33% figure not the normal 10%)

If you have followed all the above (and if not read it again for it is important) you will see how this can be observed in the Dyfed region (the Broadhaven school report in February 1977 opened the floodgates on that occasion) Probably it happened at Warminster too (but I wasn't around then to know!) Certainly it occurred in minor fashion in Clwyd (although only very little local publicity has so far ensued and the area is not yet recognised even locally as

a window area...a position which we expect to alter after publication of our book, and we are of course not unaware of the potential study value of this!)

Once people in an area are alerted to the phenomenon they become "sensitised" for some while. People continue to look for "the thing". Ufologists invade the area (we have UFO spotting weekends in hotels run by enterprising locals at both Warminster and Dyfed) Genuine witnesses probably still feel 'their' media is more sympathetic and may be more likely to report TRUE UFOs. The net result is a perpetuation of the window area, although we would expect it to be temporary, with the sensitising effect wearing off in time. This seems to have occurred gradually over the 15 years since Warminster became popular. Recently one local UFO publication asked "Is Warminster a UFO ghost town?" No...I think it may just have become desensitised and perhaps it has finally become normal again.

b) UFO investigators are relatively thin on the ground, active ones even less so. Is it mere coincidence that Warminster is synonymous with Arthur Shuttlewood, or that Randall Jones-Pugh (the only ufologist for miles) should just happen to live in the heart of the Dyfed ufocal? It is not a simple question, and there are no investigators (nor have there even been any) in the Clwyd "Ufocal". Yet I have to suspect this must have influence generally. A distribution map of UFO sightings in the UK, congregates in areas where there are most ufologists. This is an obvious statement, but it is overlooked by most people. It may be a chicken and egg situation (does the ufocal attract ufologists or ufologists the ufocal?) but it is important to realise that apparant ufocals may simply be special cases of a normal process which fosters throughout the country.

In short I am far from convinced that we cannot explain the mystery in terms of the media and sociological snowball, combined with a catalytic UFO investigator. The Clwyd does offer some evidence to the contrary (but I will leave it to the book to illustrate this and voice my suspicions about intrinsic mechanisms that might be occurring). If they do occur I will not be suprised. After all natural phenomena, like thunderstorms, focalise due to certain ground features, and controlled devices, like aircraft, tend to crystalise around mysterious locations called "Airports". Yet, in the absence of a proven ufocal free from all sociological contamination (and Clwyd might be one) I am not convinced that these windows will let in any light.

----- INVESTIGATION SECTION

CASE 8063 MAY 15 00.40 BIDSTON, Wirral Level A MIGAP (Alan Bell)

Witness is a teacher who was returning on the M53 north to Moreton, passing Bidston Hill (which has an observatory). It was a mild, dry night (amidst a hot spell) with a 7 knott easterly wind. The road was quiet. He saw the object first as a white light to his right. He drove under a bridge to come level. At 20MPH, and rather frightened, he wound down his window and saw the object hovering 100 yards away, the height of a block of flats (below the skyline of the hill). It was so low and large (bigger than a golf ball at arms length) that he could not see all of its shape. But it had two rounded black cones which had shimmering pink/red flames behind them. These emitted a light beam each, which cut off before reaching the ground. He drove past and on reaching home (3-4 mins later) could still see the flames. He took his mother back but the object had gone. The object was over a populated area and 1 mile from Wallasey where I (JR) was that night. Indeed Paul and I had driven past the very spot just 2 hours before and had been walking the hill three days before! Curses! Yet another "localised" and "personalised" "impossible" case. UNKNOWN



CASE 8065 DEC 30 22.30 HUDDERSFIELD, W. Yorks Level C Graham Birdsall

Two men (inc an RAF gunner on leave) and an independant third 10 miles North, saw a green oval object pass across the sky in an arc. In view 4/5 seconds. A vey thorough investigation was conducted and several possibilities are in evidence, but it seems likely this was a fireball meteor. Poss METEOR

CASE 8105 JAN 26 21.00 KINGSLEY, Cheshire Level B MUFORA (J Randles)



An 11 yr old boy on edge of Delamere Forest was on a night orientation exercise with school. Suddenly he looked up and saw a bright orange/red dash with white lights on the rim. It shot across the sky very fast, passing at an estimated 1000' above tree tops and causing them to rustle (although the night was calm). He

called to two other boys who also saw it, but no teacher did. He claims his hand compass span through 360 degrees as the object shot over westwards. MUFORA decided that whilst there was no obvious reason to question the boys story his level of verbal description (plus the facts the other boys saw it only "as a flash") led them to leave the case open, without prospect of further analysis. INSUFF DATA

THE LUISI CONTACT EXPERIENCE Summarised from 71pp NLUFOIG report by Gordon Barraclough & Ian Cresswell.

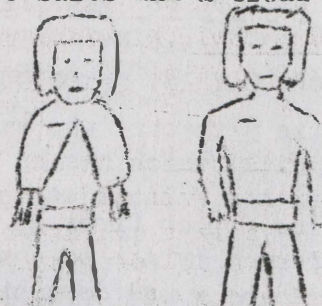
Mario is a 36yr old mill-worker (presently out of work due to a hernia). He is ex-army, with awards for observation, has lived in the area all his life, and is regarded as a local character (although not one likely to make up a story - he is well liked). He has been writing a book on the local countryside for some time. He lives in Burneside, a village north of Kendal, Cumbria, with his second wife and three teenage children.

On November 21 1980 at 20.15, despite pouring rain and blustery wind, Mario was walking a field near his home (he loves walks and the weather would not deter him). There was some light in the field due to reflections from floodlights at a nearby paper mill. Noticing an object by a tree he took it to be a cow (common in the area). Then he realised it was not and took it to be a sheep-shelter (he is very familiar with the local environment). As he got closer he shone his hand-held yellow plastic battery lantern at it and saw it was a strange craft hovering 3' off the ground. It was stone grey, like a squashed up helicopter or airplane with a dark glass canopy top. It emitted no light at all, but had strange insignia on the front and rear (near a kind of tail fin). It was 16' long and 8' wide approx.



Towards the front was a kind of door and a step underneath this. He then heard a squelching sound of footsteps, turned and shone his lantern, whereupon there was a sudden flash of bright light. This came from a pencil like object held by one occupant (female). It came out like a flame thrower and struck the lantern, smashing the glass, and warping the metal reflector, which fell out at his feet. He felt no force or recoil and kept hold of the lantern, in a state of considerable shock.

The figures were about 5'6" tall with dark one piece suits and a broad middle belt. They had very beautiful faces, and the woman had a very feminine figure. She wore a cape over her shoulders, which was also dark. Their faces were pale but no actual features of them were noted. Hair was in a page-boy style and shoulder length. It was blonde. One feature which is intensely puzzling to the witness is that, despite the heavy rain and high wind, neither the suit or the occupants seemed wet and the hair did not appear to move at all out of place. The woman spoke to him in perfect English saying they had come in peace and he was not to be afraid. She also told him not to reveal the markings on the craft, which were reproduced in a badge or emblem on their suits, at the breast.



Mario felt paralysed at the legs, but could move the rest of his body. The entities clambered into the door and the object lifted vertically, eventually vanishing into clouds and appearing as a blue/white glow through clouds. He found he could move, ran home and reported the incident to the police. A neighbour, whom he told, contacted the press. His wife attests that he was white and shaking. He was nervous, could not sleep, and suffered stomach pains and other shock symptoms for several days. He also hardly left the house for several weeks. Details of the psychological tests cannot be described here, but he was found to be quite normal, although his belief in UFOs was boosted to considerable interest and he is planning to write a book. He believes they come from space.

The lantern was analysed by police forensic experts for UFOIN. They concluded the damage could have been caused by a blowlamp. Further detailed tests, using a lantern of identical type, are presently underway with a professional electrical engineer. When his report is available this will be recorded. The site was analysed by NLUFOIG but no traces were found. Recently Mario has contacted a MUFORA investigator (who is a solicitor and who video-taped an interview session). He asked him to find a publisher as he was now ready to reveal the markings on the craft! The case is still proceeding and a full report will be published in FSR in due course.